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January 18, 2012

THIS WEEK: Report by Annie Wittenmyer, State Sanitary Agent

BACKGROUND: The 10th General Assembly convened on January 11, 1864, and adjourned on March 29—a 79-day session. There were 138 members in the legislature. The members included 42 Republicans in the Senate and 87 Republicans in the House of Representatives. Democrats numbered four in the Senate and five in the House. Jacob Butler was the Speaker of the House, and Enoch W. Eastman was the Lt. Governor presiding in the Senate. William Stone was Iowa's governor. Stone was inaugurated on January 14, 1864. He was 36 years old. Governor Stone, a friend of President Abraham Lincoln, rode Lincoln's funeral train to Springfield, Illinois.



Annie Wittenmyer

(b. August 26, 1827 – d. February 2, 1900)



Governor William Stone
(b. October 14, 1827 – d. July 18, 1893)

From the Journal of the Senate.

The report of the State Sanitary Commission provided by Annie Wittenmyer, State Sanitary Agent.

As will be seen by appended statement, I have received from the Aid Societies of the State, two thousand seven hundred and twenty-three packages (barrels and boxes) of sanitary goods; which at an average value of forty dollars per package, (the estimate accepted at the Des Moines Convention) would amount to one hundred and eighty thousand nine hundred and twenty dollars, (\$108,920); which with cash and other receipts makes a sum total of business for the year, one hundred and fifteen thousand eight hundred and seventy-six dollars and ninety- three cents (\$115,876.93). As large as this sum may appear, it constitutes as far as any State record can show, nearly five-sixths of all the sanitary supplies furnished by the State during the last year.

When we take into account the prosperity of our people, we cannot but hope that the amount of goods furnished will be doubled during the year to come. Everything that will add to the comfort of the sick in the hospital or the well in camp will be needed during the spring months that are before us. The soldiers of Iowa are brave and honorable, and are worthy of our best endeavors and our choicest gifts. Let the tribute of a generous and grateful people follow them wherever they bear our glorious old flag. . .

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

ANNIE WITTENMYER,
State Sanitary Agent.

Included in Annie Wittenmyer's report was a partial list of goods received from the Soldier's and Sailor's Societies of Iowa from September 25, 1862, to December 31, 1863.

Among the items listed were:

Potatoes.....2737 bushels
Canned Fruits 4959 lbs.
Assorted Pickles.....748 galls.
Tobacco.....60 ½ lbs.
Oysters.....2 cans
Wine2 kegs
Honey.....63 lbs.
Ginger Snaps.....795 lbs.
Catsup.....84 bottles
Gooseberries in kegs.....40 galls.
Horse Radish.....102 qts.
Suspenders17 pairs
Night Caps.....13
Pin Cushions.....158
Neck Ties48
Blankets.....10
Many large boxes of books and papers not counted
Fine Combs.....50
Slippers..... 70 pairs
Linen Coats.....37
Woolen Mittens..... 60 pairs
Comfortables.....272
Drawers..... 1022 pairs
Socks..... 309 pairs
Prunes..... 50 lbs.

Canned Chickens 15 qts.
Buckskin Gloves.....1 pair
Handkerchiefs.....966